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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/711,976	10/18/2004	Kazuaki KONDO	040539	5975

23850 7590 12/08/2005

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EXAMINER	
TRAN, DALENA	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3661	

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
10/711976			

EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
	20051206

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/711,976	KONDO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dalena Tran	3661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 October 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-17* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-17* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *10/19/04*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This application has been examined. Claims 1-17 are pending.

The prior art submitted on 10/19/04 has been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, and 5, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tamura (6177878).

As per claim 1, Tamura discloses a vehicle-mounted meter system comprising: an inputting and outputting circuit for data measured to show a condition of the vehicle (see column 2, lines 10-57), a control circuit for controlling the system as a whole and for procession of the data, the control circuit separated from the data inputting and outputting circuit, and the control circuit is arranged on the control unit (see column 3, lines 1-39), a meter main body having at least one measured value indication device a driving device for the indication device (see column 1, lines 44-63), a control unit detachably attached to the meter main body (see column 2, lines 58-67), wherein the data inputting and outputting circuit is arranged on the meter main body (see column 2, lines 10-19).

As per claim 5, Tamura discloses a vehicle-mounted meter system comprising: an inputting and outputting circuit for data measured to show a condition of the vehicle (see column 2, lines 10-57), a control circuit for controlling the system as a whole and for

procession of the data, the control circuit separated from the data inputting and outputting circuit (see column 3, lines 1-39), a meter main body having at least one measured value indication device and a driving device for the indication device (see column 1, lines 44-63), a control unit detachably attached to the meter main body (see column 2, lines 58-67), wherein the data inputting and outputting circuit is arranged on the control unit, and the control circuit is arranged on the meter main body (see columns 3-4, lines 40-29).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3-4, 7-17, are rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura (6177878) in view of Muller (6249727).

As per claims 3-4, 7-8, 10-11, 13-14, and 16-17, Tamura does not disclose wherein wire or wireless signal transmission is applied between the meter main body and the control unit. However, Muller discloses wherein wire or wireless signal transmission is applied between the meter main body and the control unit, wherein the control unit is a card-typed one (see columns 2-3, lines 45-24; and columns 5-6, lines 35-27). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teach of Tamura by combining wire or wireless signal transmission is applied between the meter main body and the control unit to transmit vehicle data signals to the portable unit.

As per claim 9, Tamura discloses a vehicle-mounted meter system comprising:

a meter main body having at least one measured value indication device and a driving device for the indication device, the measured value indication device showing a measured data of a condition of an automotive vehicle (see column 1, lines 44-63), and a control unit for controlling the system as a whole and for processing the measured data, the control unit detachably mounted on the meter main body (see column 2, lines 58-67). Tamura does not disclose rewriting a software program. However, Muller discloses the control unit has a memory and a control circuit, the memory storing and rewriting a software program to control the system as a whole and to process the measured data, the control circuit operated by the software program (see columns 4-5, lines 10-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teach of Tamura by combining rewriting a software program for customizing operation of operating parameter, and the card is movable from different machine.

As per claim 12, Tamura discloses a vehicle-mounted meter system comprising: a meter main body having an inputting and outputting circuit for data measured by various types of sensors to know a condition of the vehicle, at least one measured value indication device for indicating the measured data, and a driving device for the indication device (see column 2, lines 10-57), and a control unit for controlling the system as a whole and for processing the measured data, the control unit detachably mounted on the meter main body (see column 2, lines 58-67). Tamura does not disclose rewriting a software program. However, Muller discloses the control unit has a memory and a control circuit, the memory for storing and rewriting a software program to control the system as a whole and to process the measured data, the control circuit operated by the software program (see columns 4-5, lines 10-35). It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teach of Tamura by combining rewriting a software program for customizing operation of operating parameter, and the card is movable from different machine.

As per claim 15, Tamura discloses a vehicle-mounted meter system comprising: a meter main body having at least one measured value indication device and a driving device for the indication device, the measured value indication device showing a measured data of a condition of the vehicle (see columns 3-4, lines 40-30), a control unit detachably mounted on the meter main body, wherein the control unit has a data inputting and outputting circuit and a memory (see column 3, lines 1-39), wherein the meter main body has a control circuit operated by the software program so that the control circuit controls the system as a whole and to process the measured data (see column 2, lines 10-20). Tamura does not disclose rewriting a software program. However, Muller discloses the data inputting and outputting circuit transmitting data measured by various types of sensors to know a condition of the vehicle, the memory used for storing and rewriting a software program to control the system as a whole and to process the measured data (see columns 4-5, lines 10-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teach of Tamura by combining rewriting a software program for customizing operation of operating parameter, and the card is movable from different machine.

6. Claims 2, and 6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura (6177878) in view of Goldman et al. (6430488).

As per claims 2, and 6, Tamura does not disclose the meter main body has a random bus structure. However, Goldman et al. disclose the meter main body has a

random bus structure corresponding to the data inputting and outputting circuit, and the bus structure has a buffer through which communication is allowed between the data inputting and outputting circuit and the control circuit (see columns 4-6, lines 66-5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teach of Tamura by combining the meter main body has a random bus structure to provide vehicle data signals to communicate with the output circuit.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

. Hasegawa et al. (5091856)

. Bayron et al. (5803043)

. Shutty et al. (5938716)

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dalena Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-6968. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30 AM-4:00 PM), off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 571-272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner
Dalena Tran

December 6, 2005